Proposal to convert some major ports into Trans-shipment Centres

857. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to convert some of the major ports in the country into Trans-shipment Centres;

(b) if so, which are those ports that Government propose to convert into Trans-shipment Centres;

(c) whether Vizag has also been included as one of the Centres; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not making it as Trans-shipment Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) No. Sir.

Handing over the surplus land of Kandla Port Trust to Gujarat

858. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of actual proposal for handing over the surplus land of Kandla Port Trust to the Gujarat State;

(b) how much land is to be handed over to the State Government;

(c) the details of action taken by Government for handing over the possession of surplus land of the Kandla Port Trust to the State; and

(d) by when the possession of land in question would be handed over to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) At present there is no proposal for handing over the surplus land of Kandla Port Trust to the Gujarat State.

Projects involving cargo transportation for private sector

859. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Inland Waterways Authority of India (WAI) has earmarked certain projects involving cargo transportation for private sector participation;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with response of the private sector in the projects; and

(c) by when, the work on these projects is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) Government of India have approved Inland Water Transport Policy where in the following areas have been identified for private sector participation:

(a) Ownership and operation of vessels for cargo and passengers.

(b) Fairway development and maintenance.

(c) Construction and operation of river terminals or river ports.

(d) provision and operation of mechanized cargo-handling systems.

(e) Putting up and maintenance of navigational aids.

(f) Provision of pilotage services.

(g) Setting up and running of IWT training institutions.

In order to give wide publicity to the IWT policy amongst various stake holders in IWT sector focus on private sector entrepreneurs four interactive Meets have so far been held this year after finalisation of the IWT Policy at New Delhi, Patna, Kochi and Guwahati. The response has been positive and encouraging. Some of the State and Central Public Sector Units as well as private sector companies have shown interest for Joint Venture in IWT Sector. Preliminary discussions are under way.

The details of the projects would be available after the proposals are concretized.

The time-frame for starting the projects can be fixed after the projects are formally agreed to be undertaken by the concerned parties.

Proposal to replace the existing tariff authority for major ports

860. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to replace the existing tariff authority for major ports with some authority having a supervisory role;

(b) if so, the details of such a supervisory authority that Government propose to introduce;

(c) whether Government are thinking of corporatising any port in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of such ports and the reasons for corporatisation?